

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 30674 251243Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 /092 W

----- 019256

R 251236Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5499

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SS MO AG FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON SAHARA

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA D'ALBIS TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 24 THAT QUAI EXPECTS ALGERIANS TO CONTINUE A STEADY PATTERN AT THE UN AND ELSEWHERE AGAINST THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON THE SAHARA. THE ALGERIANS RIGHTLY CONSIDER THEY HAVE LOST A DIPLOMATIC BATTLE AND ARE HOPING, NOT WITHOUT SOME REASON, THAT INTERNAL PROBLEMS WILL FORCE THE SPANISH TO REVERSE THEIR POSITION ON THE SAHARA ONCE AGAIN. THE ALGERIAN CASE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IS A STRONG ONE JURIDICALLY, ALBIS SAID, AND CURRENT MOROCCAN SATISFACTION WITH THE FAIT ACCOMPLI IN THE SAHARA MAY BE PREMATURE.

2. IN ADDITION TO DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, THE ALGERIANS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE GIVING LARGE-SCALE MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE F. POLISARIO, ALBIS CONTINUED. ALREADY THE F. POLISARIO HAS TAKEN OVER MOST OF THE TOWNS EVACUATED BY THE SPANISH ARMY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 30674 251243Z

NORTHEAST OCCUPIED BY THE MOROCCAN ARMY. ALBIS DOUBTED THAT THE ALGERIANS WOULD INTERVENE DIRECTLY WITH MILI-

TARY FORCE IN THE SAHARA, BUT PREDICTED THAT RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO WILL AT BEST BE STRAINED FOR YEARS TO COME. ALBIS THOUGHT THE ALGERIANS' CONFIDENCE THAT THEIR OWN SYSTEM IS THE "WAVE OF THE FUTURE" AND THAT THE MOROCCAN REGIME REPRESENTS A DYING PAST, TEMPERED BY THEIR ESSENTIAL PRAGMATISM, WOULD KEEP THE ALGERIANS FROM MAKING ANY RASH MOVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MOROCCANS (AND MAURITANIANS) WILL HAVE PROBLEMS IMPOSING THEIR FIAT OVER TERRITORY NOW EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED BY F. POLISARIO.

3. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, ALBIS DENIED RECENT ALGERIAN CHARGES OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE MOROCCAN POSITION, PARTICULARLY THAT OTHER THAN ALREADY-SCHEDULED ARMS DELIVERIES HAD BEEN MADE TO MOROCCO. AT ONE POINT, HOWEVER, ALBIS IMPLIED, WITHOUT FURTHER EXPLANATION, THAT THE FRENCH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY NEUTRAL ON THE SAHARAN QUESTION. HE DISMISSED ALGERIAN CRITICISM AS SIMPLY ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE ALMOST AUTOMATIC ALGERIAN REACTION OF SETTING UP THE FRENCH AS SCAPEGOAT WHENEVER THINGS GO WRONG. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S., TOO, IS A PRIME TARGET FOR ALGERIAN POLITICAL INVECTIVE, BUT THAT IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD "WHERE IT COUNTS," AMERICAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS SEEM EXCELLENT.

4. ALBIS REMARKED THAT HASSAN'S APPARENT SUCCESS ON THE SAHARA HAD STRENGTHENED HIS POSITION AT HOME. HE WONDERED, NONETHELESS, WHETHER THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH MOROCCO WILL ENCOUNTER BEFORE (AND IF) IT IS ABLE TO DIGEST THE SAHARA MIGHT NOT IN THE LONG RUN WEAKEN THE KING. MOREOVER, HE WARNED, ANOTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IS ALWAYS A PRESENT POSSIBILITY IN MOROCCO, AND THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE REMAINS AN OPEN QUESTION.
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS30674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750410-0375
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751111/aaaaajqn.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH VIEWS ON SAHARA
TAGS: PFOR, SS, MO, AG, FR, (D'ALBIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006